



## HASLEMERE MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

***Dear Members,***

As we move into spring, with longer days and the welcome signs of new growth around us, it feels a good moment to look ahead and think about how we continue to develop and share all that Haslemere u3a has to offer.

Could you help us share the word? Last month I wrote to members about an important Committee role – helping us think about how we present Haslemere u3a and keep our activities visible in the community. We are still looking for someone who might enjoy taking this on. It is not a demanding role and you wouldn't be expected to do everything yourself – just bring ideas and help coordinate publicity where needed. If you might be interested, even just to explore what is involved, I would be very pleased to hear from you via the Contact page on the website.

We have recently added a brand-new Welcome page to the Haslemere u3a website, designed to give prospective members a clear and friendly introduction to what we offer. Do take a look when you have a moment.

We would also be delighted to include more photographs of our groups in action – whether walking, learning, creating or simply enjoying each other's company. If your group has any suitable photos that could appear on the Welcome page or be used for publicity, please do send them in.

Wishing all our members a very Happy Easter. Please note, as always, there is no Speaker's Lecture in April.

***Warmest regards, Roger***

**NEW MEMBERS! *A very warm u3a welcome to: Carole Britton, William Holloway, Barbara Baldwin, Harriet Poland, Richard Shelly, Robin Sly, Adam Forde and Gillian Smith***

## APRIL MEMBERS COFFEE MORNING



Our next sociable u3a Members Coffee Morning will be on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April from 11am - 12noon** at the Haslemere Methodist Church Hall Community Café, Weyhill - opposite the petrol station. There is some parking behind the Church or at Tesco's and it is also on a bus route. Come and join us and bring a friend perhaps. We are still looking for a new organiser of these monthly Coffee Mornings. Interested? Details are on the Volunteering Group page on the u3a website.

## NEWS OF MEMBERS: RIP – MARTIN FRIPP

We recently heard the sad news of the passing of Martin Fripp. Martin was a Member of Haslemere U3A for over 10 years - one of the original 5-mile Ramblers, a member of the STARS Group and joint Group Leader for both Bridge Intermediate and Introduction to Duplicate Bridge – he was a very keen player.

Martin was a modest man with a sharp mind. He had several health issues to contend with lately, though his recent decline was as unexpected as it was inconsolable. Our thoughts are with his wife, Clare and the rest of his family.

## NEW DOG WALKING GROUP – THE INAUGURAL OUTING!

“Spring sunshine was a welcome surprise for the new U3A Dog Walking Group’s first outing on the 18th March,” said Group Leader, Sally Place. “We set off from the National Trust Hindhead Café at the Devil’s Punchbowl with 4 U3A Members plus our pooches and walked towards Gibbet Hill using the many grassy and stony tracks. The dogs pretty much ignored each other, concentrating on sniffing the many interesting smells - whilst the four humans chatted along the way and admired the glorious views!”



“At Gibbet Hill, we were lucky to have a very clear view of the countryside across to London. We then strolled back and the walk took just under an hour to do 1.5 miles. We stopped at the Hindhead Café for

refreshments and agreed that it had been great fun and our dogs seemed to have enjoyed themselves too! Our next walk is on **15th April at 2pm** starting from the Hindhead Café at the Devil’s Punchbowl.” Please let Sally know in advance if you would like to join this new Group via the u3a website and the Dog Walking Group contact link.

**NEXT U3A STUDY DAY: Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> April** – Current threats to UK, NATO & European Security. Presented by Major Gordon Corrigan, Military Historian. For more information, please go to: <https://surreynetwork.u3asite.uk/events/>

**WELCOME AFTERNOON FOR NEW MEMBERS – VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED – COME AND JOIN US!**

We are hosting an informal Welcome Afternoon for new Members who joined after October 2025 on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April** from **2.15-3.45pm** at the **Methodist Church Hall on Weyhill** and are looking for two or three volunteers to support the Committee on the day, by greeting our guests when they arrive. Interested? Contact Claire Coxwell, our Groups Co-ordinator via the Contact page on our website."



**PILATES BEGINNERS COURSE**

Although this is not an actual Haslemere u3a Group, this short Pilates Beginners Course might be of interest to Members who have wanted to learn Pilates but are not quite sure where to begin. The course is run by Jo Weller who is a Haslemere u3a Member and a certified Body Control Pilates Teacher.

You will learn the fundamental principles and exercises to improve posture and flexibility, strengthen the core and support your body in everyday life - with all participants benefitting from individual guidance. The next Beginners Course starts on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April from 9.30-10.30am** at Hardman Hoyle Hall, Linchmere Road, Haslemere GU27 3QW and runs for five weeks – at a discounted rate for U3a Members of **£55.00**.

Jo also teaches regular weekly classes on Mondays and Thursdays in Haslemere and Churt, including a Pilates for Men Group at Haslewey Community Centre on Mondays at 6.00pm. Contact Jo with any questions or to reserve your place on 07810 890426 or via [pilatesunlocked@gmail.com](mailto:pilatesunlocked@gmail.com) For more information go to [www.pilatesunlocked.com](http://www.pilatesunlocked.com)

**THE U3A WEBSITE** To contact Committee Members, please go to the Contact Page and to contact a Group Leader, go to the Groups page via the website - [www.haslemere.u3asite.uk](http://www.haslemere.u3asite.uk).



## **INTRODUCTION TO BOWLS!**

U3A Group Leader, Judy Rix will be running an Introduction to Bowls course on **Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April and Thursdays, 7th and 14th May from 14.30 – 16.00pm**. The venue is Haslemere Bowling Club at The Recreation Ground, Old Haslemere Road. Equipment will be provided but please wear flat soft soled shoes and warm clothes as it can be windy. Refreshments will be provided when there will be time to socialise and there is a charge of £3.00 per person for the use of the

green. “I have enlisted the help of our fully qualified coach,” said Judy.

If any u3a Member is interested in joining this group - which already has 5 prospective members – please email Judy - [j.rix612@btinternet.com](mailto:j.rix612@btinternet.com)

If you can't commit to coming on these Thursday afternoons but would like to have a trial session to see if Bowls is for you, then you are most welcome to come to our **OPEN DAY** on **Sunday 17th May from 14.00 -17.00pm** when Members and their families (children included) can just turn up within this time slot. I will be running the 4th session for the U3A group during that afternoon.”



## **FUN AND FITNESS GROUP – CHARITY SWIMATHON!**

Jan Jeffcoat, Charlotte Fentem, Rosie Slater, Sylvia Mitchell and Bridget Tanner - proud members of the U3A Fun & Fitness Group at Haslemere Leisure Centre - made a fantastic splash by taking part in the national Swimathon on Tuesday 24th March!

This amazing team powered through an incredible 198 pool lengths - almost 5 kilometres – smashing their original 1.5 km target. What an achievement! If you'd like to support their efforts, their fundraising page is still open under Bridget Tanner's name: [jq.swimathon.org/fundraising/bridgettanner-1773244388055](http://jq.swimathon.org/fundraising/bridgettanner-1773244388055) Every donation goes towards wonderful causes: Marie Curie, Cancer Research UK and the Swimathon Foundation. Swimming is just one of the many enjoyable activities offered by the Fun & Fitness Group at the Leisure Centre. Whether it's been months or years since you last dipped your toes in the water, you'll receive a warm welcome! You can drop in on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings anytime between 9:30am and 12:45pm and make the most of a wide range of facilities—including the gym, swimming pool,

sauna, steam room, table tennis and racquetball – for just £3.00 per session as a Haslemere u3a Member. Thursday mornings also offer a fitness class for an extra boost! To find out more, head over to the Fun & Fitness Group on the u3a website.



### **ORIGINAL 5 MILE RAMBLERS - SUMMER TERM STARTS SOON!**

The Original 5 mile Ramblers enjoyed the last walk of their winter/spring term walking clock-wise around the rim of the Devil's Punchbowl, then going down across the stream and gently climbing up the other side. "The weather was perfect, no wind

and not too much sun," said Ramblers Group Leader, Tina Ridgway. "The views were great especially from the highest point on the rim. Lunch followed in the Punchbowl Hotel, where there is plenty of parking."

"We will start the summer term on **17th April** and have a full programme of leaders in place with venues to be decided. We are now having to think of petrol prices so this will probably impact on the starting distance. We are very lucky to have so many walks on our doorstep!" New members are welcome.

### **CROQUET – FREE TASTER SESSIONS!**



Haslemere u3a is joining forces with Guildford and Godalming Croquet Club, who started running weekly croquet sessions for members of local U3a groups last year.

There will be two **FREE** taster sessions on the **30th April and 7th May**. The group will then meet every Thursday morning 10.30 - 12.30 throughout the summer season. After the free taster sessions, £100 must be paid in advance to the

Croquet Club as a lump sum or in £20 monthly instalments, paid by standing order. This is for the full season to the end of September, (22 sessions at less than £5 each – bargain!) The play is at Guildford and Godalming Croquet Club (GGCC) at Broadwater Park in Godalming. A map is available on their [website](#).

The Club provides all the equipment including mallets and the group will be supported by GGCC coaches and other members of the Croquet Club. Haslemere u3a members wanting to book a place for the taster sessions need to complete the bookings form on the GGCC u3a sessions [webpage](#).

If you would like to ask questions before signing up, please contact Haslemere u3a member and leader of this group Wendy Lockwood by emailing [info@guildfordandgodalmingcroquetclub.co.uk](mailto:info@guildfordandgodalmingcroquetclub.co.uk)

## **MAKING SENSE OF AI – A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR U3A MEMBERS**

Experience a fantastic opportunity to learn about AI and how it can be used within our u3a groups - **Tuesday 5th May, 10:30 to 12:00 @ Haslemere Hall Annexe**. AI is everywhere.

AI is transforming the world and society. Sometimes in amazingly good ways. Sometimes in terrible ways. Our speaker is Alan Freeland, the u3a Network lead for AI, seeking to make all 420,000 u3a members aware of AI. U3A Family History, World History, Travel, Philosophy, Language and Book Clubs are some of the groups that are making the most use of AI today.

In this talk Alan will explain what AI is, how it differs from the computer systems we are familiar with, what u3a members are using AI for and how society is benefitting and/or being harmed by AI. There will be live demonstrations and lots of opportunities to ask questions and make comments. **Doors open from 10:15 am**

Please register your attendance with the Haslemere u3a Vice Chairman via **THE U3A WEBSITE** To contact the vice chairman, please go to the Contact Page and select Vice Chairman [www.haslemere.u3asite.uk](http://www.haslemere.u3asite.uk).

## **AN APPEAL TO ALL MEMBERS**

Could you help us create the occasional leaflet or poster to promote Haslemere u3a and our events? If you enjoy putting information together clearly and attractively, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Just use the Contact page on our website to message Roger the Chairman – ***AI skills entirely optional!!***

## **NATIONAL ONLINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE u3a.**

Discover a huge range of online talks, workshops and classes. Find out more by clicking [here](#).

## **U3A SPRING EXCURSION – A VISIT TO CHARTWELL HOUSE & TUDELEY CHURCH - 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026**

“Following receipt of applications for the trip to **Chartwell House and Tudeley Church** scheduled for **12th May**, I can now confirm I have enough interest for this trip to go ahead,” said Excursions Secretary, David Lee. “I still have some seats available, so if anyone still wishes to join us please let me know asap. Since Chartwell House comes under the care of the National Trust, there will be a significant reduction in price of this outing for those who are Trust members. I have, in addition, arranged a small reduction for everyone coming who is not a Trust member.”

“At the moment, the cost of tickets will not exceed £70 (£50 for members of the National Trust) but this may reduce if I have more applicants. There is a restaurant at Chartwell but the cost of the U3A ticket does not include lunch. If you would like to join us for this interesting day out, please contact me by email at [David.leefrcs@gmail.com](mailto:David.leefrcs@gmail.com) Also, any suggestions for future visits would be most welcome – thank you.”

## **WALKING IN GLORIOUS SUNSHINE – AT LAST!**



What a lovely walk the 9+ Mile Ramblers Group had around West Dean on a beautiful sunny Spring day recently! Starting from Cocking car park on the South Downs Way - with a welcome break at the W Dean cafe and a lunch stop amid the daffodils - the Group passed all 15 of Andy Goldsworthy's stones.

In 2002, 15 chalk stones were created by Andy Goldsworthy OBE – an English sculptor, photographer and environmentalist - and installed along a 5-mile stretch of West Sussex countryside. It was part of the Strange Partner's programme, involving the Pallant House Gallery, the Sussex Downs Conservation Board, the National Trust at Petworth House, West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council, Leconfield Estate, West Dean

Estate and Cowdray Estate. The chalk stones were all sourced from a local chalk quarry – representing the very essence of this part of the world.

## **COME AND JOIN US - OUT AND ABOUT AT LOCAL FETES!**



Like the outdoors life? We are looking for enthusiastic members to join our team for our summer events to help erect and dismantle the gazebo.

This year we will be attending:

Fernhurst Revels - **17th May**

Brook Fete – **26th May**

Churt Fete - **13th June**

Chiddingfold Fete - **14th June**

Beacon Hill Fete - **5th September**

So, if you fancy a fun day out in the sun, chatting to the public and introducing them to the Haslemere u3a, please get in touch

with Membership Secretary, Judith Forde - 07507 643411 – no need to commit to every date!

## **U3A PAGE ON FACEBOOK!**



Have you checked out our Facebook page? Go to <https://www.facebook.com/u3ahaslemere>

If you are on social media, please give us a like and join in the conversation. This really helps us to spread the word about Haslemere u3a.